

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A filler wire guide tube for guiding a filler wire, a base material of the wire guide tube being plastic, comprising an inner layer region ~~embedded~~ blended with a particulate additive of at least polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and an outer layer region being not blended with the additive.
2. (Previously Presented) The filler wire guide tube of claim 1, wherein the additive composition includes particulate silicon.
3. (Previously Presented) The filler wire guide tube of claim 1, wherein an amount of the additive composition is about 12 – 20 % in weight of the additive containing inner layer region, and the additive composition includes polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) of about 12 – 17 wt. % and silicon of about 1 – 3 wt. %.
4. (Previously Presented) The filler wire guide tube of claim 1, wherein a thickness of the inner layer region is about 200 - 500 μm .
5. (Previously Presented) The filler wire guide tube of claim 1, wherein the base material of the wire guide tube is high-density polyethylene (HDPE).

6. (Previously Presented) The filler wire guide tube of claim 1, wherein the wire guide tube includes an inner diameter of about 2 - 4 mm and an outer diameter of about 4 - 7 mm.

7. (Previously Presented) The filler wire guide tube of claim 1, wherein the additive composition includes molybdenum sulfide.

8. (Currently Amended) A filler wire guide tube for guiding a filler wire, comprising an inner layer region ~~embedded~~ blended with a particulate additive of at least polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) to reduce accumulation of debris and fouling and an outer layer region being not blended with the additive to provide structural stiffness.